

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020035-8

COMINT  
CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/OCI

/WHIZ 743214

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE/SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCHANIS,  
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

**WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED**

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 24 FEB 74

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL SAYS MOSCOW ACCEPTS ASSURED DESTRUCTION  
DOCTRINE

25X1A

REF

A SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CLAIMS MOSCOW ACCEPTS THE  
DOCTRINE OF MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION. SPEAKING TO A US  
DIPLOMAT IN MOSCOW ON TUESDAY, OLEG SOKOLOV, OF THE USA DIVISION  
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAID THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE ITS ACCEPTANCE IN PUBLIC BECAUSE FOR FEAR OF GIVING THE  
ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT THE TWO SIDES CONTEMPLATE WITH EQUANIMITY  
THE IDEA OF DESTROYING EACH OTHER. SOKOLOV ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET  
LEADERS HAD DECIDED ONLY RELUCTANTLY TO ALLOW THEIR PRESS TO DEAL  
WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS ON THE NEW US NUCLEAR

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TARGETING OPTIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL'S ACCOUNT, THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON US-SOVIET STRATEGIC COMPETITION, COUPLED WITH RECENT INCREASES IN THE US MILITARY BUDGET, FORCED MOSCOW'S HAND.

SOKOLOV'S ASSERTION THAT THE USSR ADHERES TO THE ASSURED DESTRUCTION CONCEPT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, AND HAS PROBABLY PROMPTED BY SOVIET CONCERNS THAT THE US IS MOVING AWAY FROM THIS DOCTRINE AND TOWARDS A COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY. A SOVIET SPECIALIST IN MILITARY AFFAIRS INDICATED AS MUCH LATE LAST MONTH IN COMMENTING ON THE IMPACT OF THE NEW US TARGETING OPTIONS. THE SOVIETS WILL REMAIN HESITANT TO ADDRESS THE MUTUAL DESTRUCTION DOCTRINE IN PUBLIC, PARTLY BECAUSE SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE OPEN ESPOUSAL OF THE DOCTRINE MIGHT UNDERCUT THE RATIONALE FOR A NUCLEAR FIGHTING FORCE AND BREED PACIFISM IN THE RANKS. PUBLIC SILENCE ON MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION ALSO HAS THE EFFECT OF PRE-SERVING MOSCOW'S NUCLEAR OPTIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE AND OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS, WHO MAY NOT IN SOVIET EYES HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO INFLICT AN IMPERMISSIBLE LEVEL OF DAMAGE ON THE USSR IN A NUCLEAR

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5

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EXCHANGE. E-2 IMPDET.

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR DIV AND NIO

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14 FEB 74

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5